

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 DOE-15 SOE-02 /095 W
-----078211 221457Z /64

R 221410Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2124
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PINR, SA
SUBJ: SAUDI MINISTER OF INTERIOR DISCUSSES ARAB SECURITY COOPERATION

REF: (A) JIDDA 3445 (NOTAL) (B) JIDDA 3595 (NOTAL)

1. LOCAL PRESS OF MAY 21 REPORTED INTERVIEW OF SAUDI MINISTER OF INTERIOR, PRINCE NAIF BIN ABD AL-AZIZ, WITH LEBANESE NEWSPAPER AL-BAIRAQ IN WHICH PRINCE NAIF DISCUSSED SAUDI PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ARAB INTERPOL. MINISTER STATED THAT HE HAD PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH AN ORGANIZATION AND CONCLUSION OF INTER-ARAB EXTRA-DITION AGREEMENTS AT RECENT CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERIOR OF ARAB LEAGUE MEMBER STATES.

2. PRINCE NAIF ALSO CALLED FOR ESTABLISHING DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN SECURITY OFFICIALS IN ARAB STATES WHICH WOULD REPLACE THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF LIMITED CONTACTS CONDUCTED ONLY BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTRIES.

3. ON MATTER OF OIL FIELD SECURITY, PRINCE NAIF NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH NO SPECIFIC COLLECTIVE STEPS WERE PRESENTLY BEING TAKEN IN THIS FIELD, SAUDI ARABIA CONSIDERED PROTECTION OF OIL RESOURCES AND INSTALLATIONS PART OF OVERALL SECURITY STRATEGY BEING CONSIDERED BY THE KINGDOM. HE ADDED THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD BE WILLING TO COOPERATE IN JOINT ACTION TO PROTECT REGION'S OIL RESOURCES, AND POINTED TO HIS VISITS DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS TO THE GULF STATES, IRAQ, SYRIA, IRAN, AND JORDAN AND TO THE VISITS OF ARAB MINISTERS OF INTERIOR TO SAUDI ARABIA. HE NOTED THAT THESE VISITS WERE NOT MERELY CEREMONIAL BUT WERE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURITY COORDINATION AND COOPERATION. HE ADDED, "THERE ARE MATTERS WHICH THE HIGHER INTEREST OF THE REGION REQUIRE OUR COORDINATED ACTION AND THIS COORDINATION IS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST ANYONE. SECURITY AND STABILITY ARE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE ARABS."

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS OBSERVED CONTINUOUS EXCHANGE OF VISITS AND DISCUSSIONS AMONG PENINSULA AND PERSIAN GULF STATES MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICIALS UP TO LEVEL OF MINISTER (SEE REFTELS). MOST RECENT VISITOR TO KINGDOM IS OMANI MINISTER OF INTERIOR MOHAMMAD BIN AHMAD WHO ARRIVED IN RIYADH MAY 20. IT APPEARS THAT TALKS DURING THESE VISITS HAVE CONCENTRATED ON QUESTIONS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GENERAL SECURITY MATTERS ON PAN-ARAB LEVEL AND IN GULF REGION, AND ON SPECIFIC MATTERS OF OIL FIELD AND INSTALLATION SECURITY. ALTHOUGH PRINCE NAIF'S PROPOSED ARAB INTERPOL WOULD BE FORMED WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF ARAB LEAGUE, DISCUSSIONS OF OIL FIELD SECURITY (AND GULF SECURITY) APPARENTLY INVOLVE IRAN AS WELL AS ARAB STATES.
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